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Commissioner, District 3



Anna T. Hamilton Commissioner, District 4

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Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller County Manager

Date:

February 22, 2019

To:

Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners

From:

Patricia Boies, Director

Health Services, Community Services Department

VIA:

Katherine Miller, County Manager

Rachel O'Connor, Santa Fe County Community Services Department

RE:

Moving From Existing Mobile Health Van Program (CSD/O'Connor)

ISSUE:

From 2007-2018 the Santa Fe County Community Services Department owned and operated a mobile health van. The van, purchased in 2007, provided preventative care: including cholesterol checks, blood pressure and heart rate checks, and flu shots. Primary locations for services included County owned senior centers as well as other community locations throughout the County. Currently the County has a Memorandum of Agreement with the New Mexico Department of Health to utilize the van to provide public health services in border areas of the State.

In 2016 the Board of County Commissioners funded the CSD to develop and implement an Accountable Health Community. This presentation will describe how moving from the existing mobile health van program toward augmenting our CSD focus on our Accountable Health Community would better serve the health and social needs of the underserved population in Santa Fe County.

BACKGROUND

From 2007-2018 the Santa Fe Community Services Department has owned and operated a mobile health van. The van provided preventative health care for a limited number of Santa Fe County residents, primarily at County owned senior centers. The van was staffed by one full time nurse, one part time nurse, and one driver. The FY 2019 budget for the Mobile Health Van program was \$276,073. This month Santa Fe County entered into an agreement with the New Mexico Department of Health to use the van to address public health issues at the border in New Mexico.

In 2016 the Health Division of the Community Services Department began the development and implementation of an Accountable Health Community (AHC). The AHC fills the gaps between clinical care and community services by addressing the social determinants of health through screening, referral and navigation to community resources. Our AHC initiative builds up the system by connecting residents to community services and offering providers and policymakers access to data and information to better serve residents, improve health and reduce health care costs. The County serves as a hub for navigators at organizations across the County, including La Familia, Interfaith Community Shelter, First Choice in Edgewood, Life Link and many others.

In 2017 the Santa Fe County Community Services commissioned a Gap Analysis as part of AHC initiative. The Gap Analysis, as well as the newly completed Behavioral Health Strategic Plan, recommended a shift in our services to focus on enhanced navigation and the provision of upstream services. The purpose of this presentation is to recommend the discontinuation of Mobile Health Van services in favor of funding free agent navigators who can respond to resident and constituent need on the community level.

We believe this important change will better serve our population for the following reasons:

- 1. Mobile Health Van services provided are preventative in nature and are typically available to County residents through other avenues as a result of changes in technology and access to medical care.
- 2. Mobile health van services are a direct service and are not in line with current CSD agency priorities.
- 3. In 2014 the Community Services Department developed a Health Action plan that identified many priorities in the area of behavioral health, a population that is not well served by the mobile health van, and that would be served through navigation services
- 4. In 2016 the County invested in the development of the Accountable Health Community, which emphasizes navigation services as a tool to address the Social Determinants of Health.
- 5. In 2017 the Gap Analysis recommended developing free standing navigators who can provide services at a community levels; and
- 6. Services will be better focused on County health care needs and will be funded and provided for at less cost to the County.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Santa Fe County Community Services Department recommends the discontinuation of the mobile health van program and recommends utilizing some of the existing funds for the expansion of the Accountable Health Community including the creation of two navigation positions within the Community Services Department.

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